



IEN Technical Advisory Committee

June 1, 2011

(approved by Committee on October 5, 2011)

The June 1, 2011 meeting of the IEN Technical Advisory Committee was held in the Basement Conference Room, LBJ Building, 650 West State Street, Boise, Idaho.

ATTENDANCE

Members/Alternates Present:

Greg Zickau (Chair), Office of the CIO
Jerry Reininger (Co-Chair), Meridian School District
Brady Kraft, IEN
Jerry Piper, Cambridge Telephone Co. (VTC)
Ann Joslin, ICFL
Ryan Gravette, IDLA

Others Present:

Lenny Simpson, ENA (phone)
Keith Murphy, Qwest
Mike Guryan, OCIO
Jodi McCrosky, Qwest
Bob Gibson, NIC (VTC)
Steve Ruppel, NIC (VTC)
Steve Smith, NIC (VTC)
Julie Best, IEN
Mike Costa, IEN
Sally Brevick, OCIO
Joel Strickler, Qwest
Debra Stephenson-Padilla, IEN

Greg Zickau opened the meeting by noting that the Committee was on Year 2 and how much has been accomplished.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Ann Joslin noted that the word “that” was duplicated on Page 1 in Greg’s discussion on “Alternative Providers” and moved the minutes be approved with this change. Jerry Reininger seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting held on June 1, 2011; the motion passed unanimously.

UPDATE FROM BRADY KRAFT

Brady commented on the “Connectivity Report” that progress has been rapid; we have 116 high schools connected. We have 23 schools where the bandwidth is complete, just waiting for the Districts to connect to their LAN’s. We have 10 Districts, 16 schools, that are well along the process and Telco ready, and should be ready by the end of June. The remaining 69 schools have been ordered; just going through the standard process of installation. All of the Syringa sites are on the list, and Syringa has confirmed that all have been tested and they are using fiber. ENA still needs to be in and make sure routers are installed. The microwave connections on the list are moving forward as well. Blaine County has taken a lot of extra work; moved their Tech Center 3 times in the last year; they have contracted with Syringa to be their LAN manager, and have had a lot of discussions of where the IEN would connect, and have made a decision as to where this will be. Kellogg HS has additional EPA things to be worked out. Payette HS has a path onto the IEN (they are a prior ENA customer), and are just waiting to shift

this over which will allow us to save money. Brady is confident that almost all schools will be connected prior to the start of school in Fall. Ryan Gravette asked about “Tech Hut Boise” on the report, is it an aggregation point? Brady answered yes, as well as First Step Lewiston. Ryan also inquired about the difference between “I Succeed”, “Inspire” and “Virtual High Schools”. Brady answered that with the virtual schools, he has had conversations with them regarding the benefits of VTC, location, if students ever come into their facility, etc.; and with “I Succeed”, the connection has already been made based on their commitments; and with “Inspire”, he has not yet had any conversations with them, but does not want to exclude any school(s) that may have the ability to benefit from the IEN. Brady also noted that IDEA is already connected in Boise (moved from Deary). Ann Joslin asked if the list included all the high schools in the state. Brady noted that there have been a few new schools that have been added since the beginning of school. If a new school was added, the list was not updated as some schools closed and were deleted from the list. Brady commented that the IEN goes by the Dept of Ed’s report, and has just downloaded the most recent list. Ann then queried about the plan and timeline for moving to the middle schools. Brady answered that the IEN is actually already connected to the middle schools and elementary schools architecturally in every district because the IEN connected to the aggregation point. The amount of B/W purchased is based on the high school student-count. The Districts were equipped with a specific amount of B/W, and now that the IEN can see the history, the amount of B/W will be adjusted based on the amount of consumption. Legislatively, there was nothing in the budget for middle and elementary schools, so we are looking at the next legislative session to ask for funding for middle/elementary schools. Jerry Piper asked for clarification on the report regarding schools that were not ready yet - was this equipment issues? Brady commented that the Syringa member schools (or any others), when the Telco’s bring the B/W to the demark point to the school, then ENA needs to install a router into that building and it sits between the Telco’s termination point and the District LAN and this allows ENA to monitor the network, B/W consumption, etc. This router must be installed to officially connect to the IEN and in order for the site to become eligible for E-rate funds. Jerry then asked if all schools had the equipment in place to install the router. Brady answered that all schools will have routers installed at some point in time. This is a coordination between ENA and the Tech Coordinator. Brady noted that a contract went out for bid for a new VTC installer, and Royalty Electric won the contract and has been doing a great job. They are on track to have all installations complete by the end of August.

Brady has set up some demonstrations of VIDYO – a desktop version of video. Ryan at IDLA has implemented this product and Brady will view a demonstration of what IDLA has done with this new product as well as HP so that the IEN can view all options that are being utilized and accepted. He will brief the Committee at the next meeting of his findings.

BANDWIDTH SATURATION PARAMETERS

Brady referred to the handout showing 3 levels: B/W that has been purchased; averages; and peak usage. He looks at this information frequently to monitor the adoption and B/W utilization by District. These metrics will be used to “tune” the B/W such that there is always adequate B/W to support consumption at that school for the entire year. There are a few schools that now have a full year of data so the IEN can tune their B/W to meet the consumption. Sugar-Salem and West Side are high adopters of B/W. Brady then asked for input from the Committee and other attendees for what the right threshold level should be.

Joel Strickler noted that Qwest uses a 70% usage as a point for the carrier to augment their services where appropriate.

Brady commented that there is a limit to how much B/W a school can utilize. Ann Joslin asked if there was a set amount of funding per year to increase B/W where needed and perhaps lower in other districts. Brady answered that funding for the next year has not been determined yet, therefore the IEN

wants to make sure that it does not over-provision at certain locations. The IEN has spent a lot of time encouraging the Telco providers to have an increased deployment of Metro-E. Greg Zickau noted that the IEN can now determine, based on data, where increases in B/W are needed and if additional monies are needed.

Ryan Gravette asked how many Districts are getting close to the 75% mark. Brady answered that there are about 8, and he monitors each District very closely. Greg stated that the guideline used to monitor B/W usage in the Districts, is that at 50%, the IEN is aware to monitor the usage closely; and at the 75% mark, to determine what increases need to be made. Ryan also commented that he has talked with several Districts to find out how they are utilizing their existing B/W, and what are they using the new B/W provided by the IEN just for video. Brady stated that some of the schools keep their existing B/W because they are in an existing contract, etc. Most of the smaller Districts are using the B/W just for the IEN providing they do not have a contract with an outside provider in place. Some Districts will bring in a router and bring a third party B/W into the router along with the IEN B/W, then electronically segregate it so that the HS traffic goes out the IEN and other traffic goes out the other router. ENA provides technical assistance to these Districts to determine the best way to configure the routers.

ENA/QWEST UPATE

Joel Strickler stated that Qwest is on target for completion by Sept. 1. There have been some challenges, but Qwest continues to look at ways to enhance performance without increasing costs to sustain future growth. Qwest's senior leadership team met to discuss infrastructure in Idaho and where dollars can best be spent to service collectively with the IEN. Brady commented that Qwest has been great at finding alternative paths to follow in the most hard to reach places, and their acceleration of deployment of Metro-E saves the IEN approximately \$30-40,000 a month.

Ryan Gravette asked Joel regarding the number of days some sites are on order, and Joel responded that there have just been some large challenges that were unforeseen, but Qwest is continually looking at ways to improve. Brady also added that he had ordered a large number of installations at one time, which presents a major obstacle in installations.

TROUBLE-TICKET SUMMARY

Lenny Simpson noted that the ticket totals have risen in the last reported month, primarily due to additional VTC installation activity which is ticketed. Many of the data-related tickets were because of power which were picked up and resolved quickly. No distressing trends and ENA is pleased with the progress. ENA is working closely with Brady and Mike Costa on refining the way VTC support is provided for future discussions.

MISCELLANEOUS

Jerry Reininger suggested that there be a discussion with the SDE regarding the timing of filing for E-rate funding for next year. Brady said this would be done and reported at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 10:32am.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Stephenson-Padilla